

38. (Twice Amended) A base, comprising:

an elongate body having a first end and a second end;

a first set of support brackets positioned adjacent the first end and a second set of support brackets positioned adjacent the second end, wherein each set of support brackets includes a thru-hole and a fastener affixed proximate the thru-hole; and

~~a threaded aperture in the elongate body between the first and second ends.~~

40. (Amended) A base, comprising:

an elongate body having a first end and a second end;

a first set of support brackets positioned adjacent the first end and a second set of support brackets positioned adjacent the second end, wherein each set of support brackets includes a thru-hole;

a threaded aperture in the elongate body between the first and second ends; and

a base plate assembly, wherein the base plate assembly includes:

a base plate;

a base coupling affixed to the base plate; and

~~a threaded segment for engaging the threaded aperture in the base.~~